



Bucyrus Foundation Civic Grants

For Immediate Release
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South Milwaukee Common Council Awards Civic Grants

In 2021, the [Bucyrus Foundation awarded](#) the City of South Milwaukee and the School District of South Milwaukee with \$10 million. In addition to project goals like [downtown redevelopment](#) and STEM education, the Bucyrus Foundation also asked that a grant program be created for South Milwaukee nonprofit organizations.

In November 2022, the South Milwaukee Common Council created an annual [civic grant program](#) that invited nonprofit organizations to apply for up to \$25,000 to address a community need, improve community support, solve a problem, or enrich the people of South Milwaukee. A five-member Civic Grants Commission of stakeholders was created to help determine how funds should be disbursed.

In total, 11 nonprofits submitted funding requests. The Civic Grants Commission narrowed this list down to seven and recommended the below 2023 allocation:

- **South Milwaukee Police Department K9 Program** - \$5,000 for the new K9 unit program.
- **Friends of Grant Park** - \$1,600 for new trail entry signs at Seven Bridges, educational wayfinding, work progress announcements, and relevant County and City information maintained by Friends of Grant Park.
- **South Milwaukee Lions Foundation** - \$6,000 for new and upgraded electrical service for Lionsfest event space.
- **Bucyrus Museum** - \$1,825 for large format scanner for scanning historical collections and contributing to "Recollection Wisconsin Program" online catalog.
- **Friends of the South Milwaukee Public Library** - \$16,300 to create a multi-use lab and learning space to enhance technology and training opportunities and to create a more friendly post-COVID-19 children's play area for ages 6 and under.
- **South Milwaukee Historical Society** - \$4,500 to create a new website and new Ancestry.com subscription.
- **Warm Up South Milwaukee** - \$14,775 to develop plans for a new fire extinguisher program for seniors and other future projects.

"The Friends of the South Milwaukee Public Library was formed only five years ago and in that short time have positively impacted the library in many ways," said Library Board President Lynn Meidam. "With this grant, the Friends will help make a generational contribution to the library and community."

Said Library Director Tristan Boswell: "We are excited to be able to offer two improved areas for the community; the updated children's play area and a computer lab for job development and technology learning. Thank you to the Friends of SMPL, the Common Council, the Civic Grants Commission, and the Bucyrus Foundation for helping make this a possibility."

"There are many nonprofit causes in South Milwaukee that deserve additional funding. We are grateful to the Bucyrus Foundation for their financial support in advancing these missions," said Mayor Jim Shelenske.

At their meeting on May 16, 2023, the South Milwaukee Common Council awarded grants as recommended by the Civic Grants Commission.

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